

VDH Emergency Preparedness Training Needs Assessment 2011

1. Please choose the role that most closely fits the position you currently hold and the work you do every day.

Allied Health Professional	31	1%
Administrator/Director/Manager	208	5%
Administrative Support Staff	1 837	22%
Animal Control Specialist/Veterinarian	1	0%
Biostatistician	1	0%
Communicable Disease/Infection Control Staff	20	1%
Computer/Information Systems Specialist	70	2%
Dental Professional	56	1%
Emergency Planner	55	1%
Emergency Responder	7	0%
Environmental Health Professional	3 538	14%
Epidemiologist	85	2%
Facilities Management/Housekeeper	3	0%
Financial Services	90	2%
Health Educator	98	3%
Laboratory Professional/Technician	40	1%
Licensure/Compliance/Regulatory Specialist	66	2%
Medical Examiner/Coroner	39	1%
Nurse	2 737	19%
Nursing/Clinic Aide	183	5%
Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant	59	2%
Nutritionist	201	5%
Occupational Health and Safety Professional	4	0%
Office Manager	64	2%
Outreach/Field Worker	114	3%
Pharmacy Professional	16	0%
Physician (non Health Director)	27	1%
Program Specialist	145	4%
Public Relations/Media Specialist	15	0%
Researcher/Analyst	21	1%
Student	1	0%
Training & Instruction	27	1%
Volunteer	6	0%
Total	3865	100%

2. Please select the highest level of education that you have completed.

High school diploma	958	25%
Associate's degree	685	18%
Bachelor's degree	1400	36%
Master's degree	680	18%
Doctorate degree	142	4%
Total	3865	100%

3. How many years have you been in your current position?

Less than 2 years	752	19%
2-5 years	860	22%
5-10 years	766	20%
More than 10 years	1487	38%
Total	3865	100%

4. How many years have you been working for the health department?

Less than 2 years	585	15%
2-5 years	698	18%
5-10 years	748	19%
10-15 years	458	12%
15-25 years	786	20%
More than 25 years	590	15%
Total	3865	100%

5. Which best describes your position?

Health district position	2952	76%
Regional position	209	5%
Central office position	704	18%
Total	3865	100%

6. What district do you work for?

Alexandria	94	3%
Alleghany	44	1%
Arlington	4	0%
Central Shenandoah	109	4%
Central Virginia	104	4%
Chesapeake	77	3%
Chesterfield	129	4%
Chickahominy	35	1%
Crater	87	3%
Cumberland Plateau	67	2%
Eastern Shore	55	2%
Fairfax	397	13%
Hampton	59	2%
Henrico	45	2%
Lenowisco	63	2%
Lord Fairfax	75	3%
Loudoun	65	2%
Mount Rogers	127	4%
New River	52	2%
Norfolk	187	6%
Peninsula	120	4%
Piedmont	42	1%
Pittsylvania-Danville	61	2%

Portsmouth	39	1%
Prince William	73	2%
Rappahannock	89	3%
Rappahannock/Rapidan	73	2%
Richmond	105	4%
Roanoke	68	2%
Southside	35	1%
Thomas Jefferson	79	3%
Three Rivers	76	3%
Virginia Beach	93	3%
West Piedmont	47	2%
Western Tidewater	77	3%
Total	2952	100%

7. What office do you work for?

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	72	8%
Office of the Commissioner	15	2%
Office of Drinking Water	94	10%
Office of Emergency Medical Services	36	4%
Office of Emergency Preparedness	17	2%
Office of Environmental Health Services	57	6%
Office of Epidemiology	160	18%
Office of Family Health Services	135	15%
Office of Financial Management	22	2%
Office of Human Resources	20	2%
Office of Information Management	75	8%
Office of Licensure & Certification	77	8%
Office of Minority Health & Health Equity	10	1%
Office of Purchasing & General Services	15	2%
Office of Risk Communication and Education	17	2%
Other	91	10%
Total	913	100%

8. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I can explain my health department's role in an emergency due to a natural disaster (such as flood or	82 3%	19%	466 16%	1651 56%	753 26%	No/low 21%
I can explain my health department's role in an emergency due to an infectious disease (such as	92 3%	18%	431 15%	1478 50%	951 32%	22%
I can explain my health department's role with isolation and quarantine.	202 7%	35%	837 28%	1357 46%	556 19%	43%
I can explain my health department's role in an emergency due to a nuclear/radiological incident.	413 14%	53%	1144 39%	1076 36%	319 11%	61%
I can explain my health department's role in an emergency due to a chemical incident.	361 12%	49%	1078 37%	1152 39%	361 12%	54%

9. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I can describe my role in an emergency due to a natural disaster (such as flood or hurricane).	145 5%	22%	503 17%	1357 46%	947 32%	No/low 25%
I can describe my role in an emergency due to an infectious disease (such as pandemic flu or smallpox).	151 5%	22%	489 17%	1336 45%	976 33%	27%
I can describe my role with isolation and quarantine.	307 10%	38%	829 28%	1179 40%	637 22%	47%
I can describe my role in an emergency due to a nuclear/radiological incident.	458 16%	50%	1009 34%	1047 35%	438 15%	59%
I can describe my role in an emergency due to a chemical incident.	417 14%	47%	970 33%	1097 37%	468 16%	55%

10. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I can describe the chain of command within my health district during an emergency response.	66 2%	16%	414 14%	1354 46%	1118 38%	No/low 18%
I know where to find my district's Emergency Response Plan.	192 7%	25%	517 18%	1089 37%	1154 39%	27%
I know how I will be notified of an incident.	34 1%	6%	151 5%	895 30%	1872 63%	11%
I know how to update my contact information in my district's emergency contact list.	105 4%	13%	267 9%	890 30%	1690 57%	20%
I am able to retrieve an alert message using the Health Alert Network (HAN).	160 5%	14%	271 9%	701 24%	1820 62%	42%

11. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability
		No/low			
I know how to communicate through the chain of command to ensure information and requests for support	72 2%	14%	347 12%	1218 41%	1315 45%
I can describe my role in communicating with the media in an emergency response.	199 7%	19%	368 12%	865 29%	1520 51%
I can describe my role in communicating with the public in an emergency response.	158 5%	18%	381 13%	1021 35%	1392 47%
I can identify limits to my knowledge/skills/authority in an emergency response.	66 2%	12%	293 10%	1087 37%	1506 51%

2009
No/low
11%

25%

22%

12. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability
		No/low			
I know where to find help when an emergency situation exceeds my abilities.	35 1%	8%	214 7%	1126 38%	1577 53%
I am able to recognize unusual events that might indicate an emergency situation.	31 1%	8%	213 7%	1440 49%	1268 43%
I am able to take appropriate action if an emergency situation evolves.	35 1%	12%	334 11%	1395 47%	1188 40%
I know where to obtain the latest relevant information about bioterrorism and emerging infectious diseases.	159 5%	30%	725 25%	1238 42%	830 28%
I am able to creatively problem solve for unusual/unexpected challenges within my responsibilities	106 4%	22%	527 18%	1425 48%	894 30%

2009
No/low
14%

13%

16%

34%

24%

13. Do you have management or leadership duties during an emergency incident?

Yes	666	23%
No	2286	77%
Total	2952	100%

14. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability
		No/low			
I can provide an overview of my district's public health emergency response plan.	10 2%	17%	99 15%	300 45%	257 39%
I can describe the chain of command within my district during an incident.	7 1%	7%	43 6%	204 31%	412 62%
I am able to describe how to make requests for additional resources during an incident.	14 2%	16%	90 14%	260 39%	302 45%
I can explain the roles of various emergency response agencies in my district.	12 2%	18%	104 16%	297 45%	253 38%
I can explain the role of the local health department in the county or city Emergency Operations Center (EOC).	12 2%	16%	93 14%	271 41%	290 44%

2009
No/low
15%

n/a

n/a

23%

23%

15. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.		No ability	Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		<div>No/low</div> <div>26%</div> <div>28%</div> <div>45%</div> <div>58%</div> <div>54%</div>				2009
I can explain the health department's role in an emergency due to a natural disaster (such as flood or	43		196	497	177	No/low 33%
	5%		21%	54%	19%	
I can explain the health department's role in an emergency due to an infectious disease (such as	70		183	442	218	39%
	8%		20%	48%	24%	
I can explain the health department's role with isolation and quarantine.	118		288	377	130	59%
	13%		32%	41%	14%	
I can explain the health department's role in an emergency due to a nuclear/radiological incident.	172	352	305	84	65%	
	19%	39%	33%	9%		
I can explain the health department's role in an emergency due to a chemical incident.	150	344	335	84	61%	
	16%	38%	37%	9%		

16. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	No ability	Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability			
		No/low			2009		
I can describe my role in an emergency due to a natural disaster (such as flood or hurricane).	71 8%		25%	159 17%	404 44%	279 31%	No/low 32%
I can describe my role in an emergency due to an infectious disease (such as pandemic flu or smallpox).	94 10%		31%	192 21%	359 39%	268 29%	41%
I can describe my role with isolation and quarantine.	138 15%		43%	253 28%	319 35%	203 22%	55%
I can describe my role in an emergency due to a nuclear/radiological incident.	162 18%		48%	278 30%	287 31%	186 20%	58%
I can describe my role in an emergency due to a chemical incident.	144 16%		46%	276 30%	308 34%	185 20%	56%

17. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.		No ability	Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I can describe the chain of command during an emergency within VDH.	53 6%	26%	179 20%	440 48%	241 26%	No/low 38%
I know where to find VDH's Emergency Response Plan.	73 8%	30%	205 22%	359 39%	276 30%	38%
I know how I will be notified of an emergency incident.	48 5%	20%	134 15%	333 36%	398 44%	33%
I know how to update my contact information in the Health Alert Network (HAN).	97 11%	29%	160 18%	256 28%	400 44%	63%
I am able to retrieve an alert message using the Health Alert Network (HAN).	128 14%	34%	183 20%	248 27%	354 39%	67%

18. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I know how to communicate through the chain of command to ensure information and requests for support	35 4%	21%	151 17%	389 43%	338 37%	No/low 16%
I can describe my role in communicating with the media in an emergency response.	71 8%	20%	113 12%	294 32%	435 48%	31%
I can describe my role in communicating with the public in an emergency response.	70 8%	21%	122 13%	323 35%	398 44%	33%
I can identify limits to my knowledge/skills/authority in an emergency response.	32 4%	14%	90 10%	354 39%	437 48%	21%

19. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I know where to find help when an emergency situation exceeds my abilities.	21 2%	14%	108 12%	382 42%	402 44%	No/low 22%
I am able to recognize unusual events that might indicate an emergency situation.	17 2%	12%	89 10%	455 50%	352 39%	17%
I am able to take appropriate action if an emergency situation evolves.	19 2%	16%	132 14%	456 50%	306 34%	22%
I know where to obtain the latest relevant information about bioterrorism and emerging infectious diseases.	86 9%	35%	240 26%	354 39%	233 26%	41%
I am able to creatively problem solve for unusual/unexpected challenges within my responsibilities	29 3%	22%	169 19%	418 46%	297 33%	25%

20. Do you have management or leadership duties during an emergency incident?

Yes	158	17%
No	755	83%
Total	913	100%

21. Please indicate your ability to complete each task.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	No ability		Low ability	Moderate ability	High ability	
		No/low				2009
I can provide an overview of VDH's public health emergency response plan.	7 4%	29%	39 25%	67 42%	45 28%	No/low 39%
I can explain the roles of various emergency response agencies in Virginia.	7 4%	30%	41 26%	66 42%	44 28%	30%
I am able to describe VDH's role in working with state and federal agencies.	6 4%	22%	28 18%	69 44%	55 35%	25%
I am able to describe how a local health department requests resources from the state health department	11 7%	34%	42 27%	57 36%	48 30%	39%
I am able to describe my role in contributing useful information and data for the development of documents	6 4%	20%	25 16%	70 44%	57 36%	23%

Your Completed Training (Part 3 of 6)

All

22. Have you demonstrated your role(s) in a district emergency response in at least one drill/exercise in the past 12 months?

Yes	1831	47%
No	2034	53%
Total	3865	100%

Your Training Needs (Part 4 of 6)

23. Do you think you need more training in the following topics in order to be adequately prepared to respond during an emergency?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not sure	Extensive needed	Some needed	None needed
Biological terrorism	231 6%	776 20%	2216 57%	642 17%
Chemical terrorism/hazardous materials	216 6%	918 24%	2153 56%	578 15%
Conflict resolution	213 6%	391 10%	1875 49%	1386 36%
Continuity of operations planning (COOP)	320 8%	626 16%	2071 54%	848 22%
Cross-cultural sensitivity	217 6%	350 9%	1570 41%	1728 45%
Disaster-related mental health concerns	269 7%	722 19%	2018 52%	856 22%
Emerging infectious diseases (e.g., SARS, pandemic influenza)	201 5%	593 15%	2158 56%	913 24%
Epidemiology	257 7%	594 15%	2099 54%	915 24%
Food and water safety	166 4%	504 13%	2108 55%	1087 28%
Incident command/response and agency roles	197 5%	461 12%	2010 52%	1197 31%
Information management (e.g., spreadsheets, databases)	269 7%	713 18%	1848 48%	1035 27%
Isolation and quarantine	238 6%	815 21%	2041 53%	771 20%

24. Question continued... Do you think you need more training in the following topics in order to be adequately prepared to respond during an emergency?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not sure	Extensive needed	Some needed	None needed
Management	357 9%	412 11%	1837 48%	1259 33%
Nuclear/radiological incident	261 7%	1182 31%	1903 49%	519 13%
Outbreak investigation	249 6%	674 17%	1975 51%	967 25%
Personal and family preparedness	122 3%	271 7%	1703 44%	1769 46%

Public health laws	215 6%	662 17%	2222 57%	766 20%
Risk and crisis communication	217 6%	605 16%	2133 55%	910 24%
Role of laboratory in an emergency event	321 8%	686 18%	1903 49%	955 25%
Role of public health in an emergency event	167 4%	417 11%	2048 53%	1233 32%
Worker safety	159 4%	345 9%	1900 49%	1461 38%
Working with vulnerable populations	233 6%	551 14%	2029 52%	1052 27%

25. Do you have a role in mass dispensing of antibiotics or vaccination? Methods of mass dispensing/vaccination include points of dispensing (PODs), drive-through delivery and home delivery, etc.

Yes	1492	39%
No	2373	61%
Total	3865	100%

**If yes, go to 26
If no, go to 27**

26. Do you think you need more training in the following topics in order to be adequately prepared for your role in mass prophylaxis/point of dispensing (POD) during an emergency response?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not sure	Extensive needed	Some needed	None needed
Basic process(es) of mass dispensing or vaccination in your health district	17 1%	64 4%	651 44%	760 51%
Incident Command Structure (ICS) for the organization of mass dispensing or vaccination staff	27 2%	76 5%	674 45%	715 48%
Job functions for mass dispensing or vaccination	19 1%	67 4%	660 44%	746 50%

27. Do you have a role in epidemiologic investigations during an emergency response?

Yes	867	22%
No	2998	78%
Total	3865	100%

**If yes, go to 28
If no, go to 29**

28. Do you think you need more training in the following topics in order to be adequately prepared to conduct an epidemiologic investigation during an emergency response?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not sure	Extensive needed	Some needed	None needed
Surveillance	26 3%	74 9%	504 58%	263 30%
Case investigations & disease control	18 2%	59 7%	494 57%	296 34%
Study design	42 5%	184 21%	481 55%	160 18%
Interviewing techniques	13 1%	61 7%	447 52%	346 40%
Analyzing & interpreting data	31 4%	150 17%	498 57%	188 22%
Communicating findings/ risk communication	24 3%	97 11%	487 56%	259 30%
Laboratory support & specimen collection	24 3%	108 12%	518 60%	217 25%

29. Do you have a role in communicating with the public during an emergency response?		
Yes	819	21%
No	3046	79%
Total	3865	100%

If yes, go to 30
If no, go to 31

30. Do you think you need more training in the following topics in order to be adequately prepared for your role in communicating with the public during an emergency response?				
Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not sure	Extensive needed	Some needed	None needed
Basic effective communication	12 1%	27 3%	297 36%	483 59%
Good customer service	5 1%	13 2%	182 22%	619 76%
Basic principles of risk communication	11 1%	47 6%	432 53%	329 40%
Phone etiquette	2 0%	10 1%	154 19%	653 80%
Email etiquette	5 1%	20 2%	199 24%	595 73%
Social media (e.g., facebook, twitter) etiquette	29 4%	126 15%	296 36%	368 45%
Understanding confidentiality (knowing what to share and with whom)	7 1%	24 3%	253 31%	535 65%

31. Do you have a role in communicating with the media during an emergency response?		
Yes	277	7%
No	3588	93%
Total	3865	100%

If yes, go to 32
If no, go to 33

32. Do you think you need more training in the following topics in order to be adequately prepared for your role in communicating with the media during an emergency response?				
Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not sure	Extensive needed	Some needed	None needed
Understanding the media and its players	1 0%	21 8%	137 49%	118 43%
Working with your Public Information Officer (PIO)	3 1%	21 8%	105 38%	148 53%
Knowing how and when to respond	5 2%	23 8%	118 43%	131 47%
Early preparation (developing a plan)	5 2%	28 10%	153 55%	91 33%
Message mapping	5 2%	42 15%	151 55%	79 29%
Spokesperson training	6 2%	38 14%	133 48%	100 36%

33. Please list other courses that you feel you need in order to be adequately prepared to respond during an emergency.

792 Responses

34. Aside from emergency preparedness topics, please list other topics that you think you need in order to perform your daily role in the health department.

742 Responses

Your Training Preferences (Part 5 of 6)

35. Training can be provided in different formats. For each of the following formats, please indicate to what extent you prefer it as a training format.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Effective	Not sure
On-site instructor led: A presentation by an instructor to an audience located in the same room.	82 2%	569 15%	1 3075 80%	139 4%
Interactive seminar/workshop: A seminar is a meeting for giving and discussing information. A workshop	133 3%	682 18%	2 2863 74%	187 5%
Interactive video-conference (Polycom): A presentation by an instructor located in a different setting from the	525 14%	1616 42%	1547 40%	177 5%
Computer-based conferencing: Two-way audio and video communications between the learner and the	554 14%	1656 43%	1378 36%	277 7%
Audio conferencing: Two-way audio communication between the learner and the instructor via telephone.	1262 33%	1593 41%	719 19%	291 8%
Online/web-based course: A course in which the teaching and learning are completed primarily through	449 12%	1503 39%	3 1716 44%	197 5%
CD/DVD course: A self-paced course providing content to the learner on a compact disc or DVD.	535 14%	1470 38%	1624 42%	236 6%
Print-based self-study: A self-paced course providing content to the learner in print form.	660 17%	1492 39%	1513 39%	200 5%

36. TRAIN Virginia is a web site that allows you to search and register for courses that may be offered around the state and web-based courses on a variety of topics. It also can help you keep a record of the courses you have taken. Have you used TRAIN Virginia within the past 12 months?

Yes	3435	89%
No	430	11%
Total	3865	100%

37. We are looking at providing training via mobile devices (e.g., cell phones, lpads, etc.). To assess your skill level, please indicate which of the following you do on a mobile device: (Select all that apply)

Make/receive calls	3369	87%
Send/receive texts	2586	67%
Check email	1890	49%
Browse the internet	1607	42%
Social networking	947	25%
Instant messaging	950	25%
I don't have a mobile device	407	11%

Your Personal Preparedness (Part 6 of 6)

38. Have you prepared a family emergency kit (with medications, a 3 day supply of food and water, a flashlight, batteries, etc)?		
Yes	1939	50%
No	1926	50%
Total	3865	100%

39. Have you designated a person who would take care of your family obligations in case you are called into work during an emergency incident?		
Yes	2317	60%
No	1548	40%
Total	3865	100%